

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following heading:

--Background of the Invention--.

On page 2, line 14, through page 3, line 16, please amend this paragraph as follows:

A problem of such systems is that soldiers must be accommodated not only in the turret but also in the carrier vehicle, with the result that both areas must be appropriately designed to the armored protection requirements of the respective vehicle, resulting in a relatively high weight of the overall system. In modern strategy, more and more use is made of combat vehicles in remote or distant regions, as a result of which, if one wishes to ensure a rapid deployment of the appropriate forces, the upper weight limits of the combat vehicles becomes a function of the transport weight of the appropriate aircraft. For this reason, combat vehicles have been conceived where the entire crew is accommodated in the vehicle body, so that the required personnel protection need be realized only at the vehicle body. The weapon is integrated into an unmanned turret. Furthermore, as with a manned turret solution, to ensure an extensively unlimited panoramic view, whereby also due to the turret contours no limitations in the field of viewing occur nor do the viewing devices limit the working range of the weapon, the viewing devices are mounted at or on the remotely controlled turret. For the transfer of the image information from a turret that is rotatable by $n \cdot 360^\circ$ n times 360° relative to the carrier vehicle to the crew in the vehicle body, in general the image information of reconnaissance and target sensors are converted into electrical signals, are transferred via a collecting ring into the carrier vehicle, and are then presented at the operator sites on monitors or displays. As a result, one cannot utilize the aforementioned serious advantages of a glass optical direct viewing.

On page 3, lines 18 – 20, please amend this paragraph as follows:

Combat vehicles having the features described above ~~and in the introductory portion of claim 1~~ are known, for example, from EP 0 844 455 A2 and EP 1 061 323 A2.

On page 2, line 9, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention--

On 4, lines 1 – 7, please amend this paragraph as follows:

The object of the invention is to embody a combat vehicle having the aforementioned features ~~from the introductory portion of claim 1~~ in such a way that an image transfer from the viewing head of the panoramic viewing device to the viewing part in the crew compartment is possible in a purely glass optical manner, without due to the viewing device adversely affecting the operating range of the weapon in the turret nor the viewing range of the viewing device due to the turret.

On page 4, lines 9 – 11, please amend this paragraph as follows:

The resolution of this object is inventively effected by a combat vehicle where the panoramic viewing device is embodied as a glass optical direct viewing device, with the viewing head thereof being disposed above the roof plate on an azimuthal axis of rotation of the turret; a rotationally symmetrical passageway extends through the turret, coaxial to the axis of rotation, from the roof plate to the base plate of the turret; and an optical viewing channel is guided through the passageway and connects the viewing head with a viewing part of the viewing device that is disposed in the crew compartment, wherein at least the viewing head is pivotable, relative to the vehicle body, by at least 360° in azimuth, independently of the position and rotation of the turret.

~~the features of the characterizing portion of claim 1. Advantageous further developments of the invention are described in the dependent claims.~~

On page 5, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 5, line 1, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 6, line 2, through page 7, line 2, please amend this paragraph as follows:

Furthermore mounted on the roof plate 1 is a periscopic viewing or sighting device 4, the height of which is designed such that its outlook or viewing head 4.1 is disposed above the roof plate of the turret 2. The mounting location of the viewing device 4 is selected such that the device is coaxially disposed in the azimuthal axis of rotation of the turret 2. The viewing device is embodied as a glass optical direct viewing device, and its eyepiece or viewing part 4.2 is disposed below the roof plate 1, within the vehicle body, and is connected with the viewing device via an optical channel 4.3. Coaxial to the azimuthal axis of rotation, the turret 2 has a rotationally symmetrical passageway 2.1 that extends from the roof plate of the turret 2, through the turret, to its base plate. Extending through this passageway 2.1 is the optical viewing channel of the viewing device 4 which connects the viewing head 4.1 with the viewing part 4.2 in the crew compartment. The viewing head 4.1, or the entire viewing device 4, which is fixedly mounted to the hull, is pivotable relative to the vehicle body by $n \cdot 360^\circ$ n times 360° independently of the position and rotation of the turret 2. The design can be such that the optical viewing channel that is guided through the passageway 2.1 of the turret 2 is disposed within a tube of the viewing device 4 that connects the viewing head 4.1 with the viewing part. In this way, viewing part, tube and viewing head can be embodied as a common component that is pivotable independently of the turret 2.

On page 15, after line 7, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 101 5102 17 177.7 filed April 18, 2002¹ and PCT/DE03/01269 filed April 15, 2003.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

In addition, please add the following abstract to the specification:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A combat vehicle, especially an armored vehicle and tank, having a vehicle body that is carried by a chassis and in which is disposed a crew compartment. An unmanned turret pivotable in azimuth via a turntable disposed on a roof plate, is disposed on the upper side of the vehicle body. The turret contains a weapon pivotable in elevation. A panoramic viewing device, embodied as a glass optical direct viewing device, includes a viewing head disposed above the roof plate on the azimuthal axis of rotation of the turret. A rotationally symmetrical passageway extends through the turret, coaxial to the axis of rotation, from the roof plate to the base plate of the turret. An optical viewing channel is guided through the passageway connecting the viewing head with a viewing part in the crew compartment. At least the viewing head is pivotable, relative to the vehicle body, by at least 360° in azimuth, independently of the position and rotation of the turret.